

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of mitigating the adverse effects of antiviral agents in HIV therapy comprising (1) administering to an HIV-infected subject at least one antiviral agent until HIV is suppressed, (2) discontinuing antiviral therapy, (3) administering a dsRNA, then, when HIV values increase (4) resuming antiviral treatment with the at least one antiviral agent.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein in step (1) a dsRNA is administered with said antiviral agent.
3. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein in step (1) HIV values are suppressed to a value below detection.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the value is less than 50 copies/ml of HIV plasma RNA.
5. The method of claim 1 or 2 wherein two or more anti-retroviral agents are used.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein the anti-retroviral drug is selected from abacavir, amprenavir, zidovudine, combivir, zalcitabine, lamivudine, didanosine, trizivir, stavudine, lopinavir, efavirenz, nevirapine, indinavir, delavirdine, ritonavir, saquinavir, nelfinvir and tenofovir.
7. The method of claim 1 or 2 where the dsRNA is  $rI_n \cdot r(C_{12}U)_n$ , Poly A · Poly U or  $rI_n \cdot r(C_{29},G)_n$ , in which r is ribo and n has a value of 4 to 29.